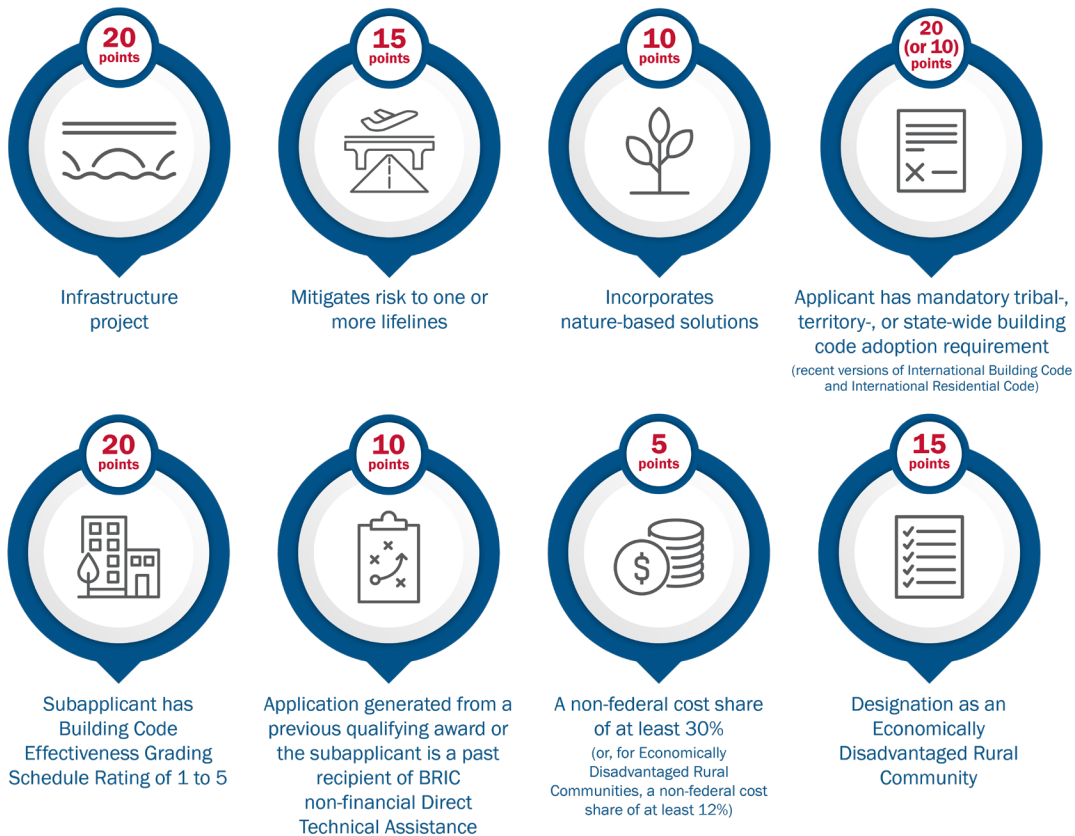


BRIC Technical Criteria

This program support material provides detailed information about the eight technical evaluation criteria to be used in the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) national competition. The conditions that must be met to receive the point allotment for each criterion are described below. Projects either receive the specified points allotted or zero points for each criterion. Additionally, application instructions are included for each respective criterion to guide information submission in FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO).

BRIC Technical Criteria



FEMA

Background

As described in the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), FEMA will use technical evaluation criteria to score subapplications submitted to the national competition. As referenced in the Notice of Funding Opportunity:

If needed, based on the number of subapplications submitted to the BRIC program, FEMA will use the technical evaluation criteria scoring as a program priority screening tool for the qualitative evaluation review. FEMA will send subapplications valued at twice the amount of available funding to the BRIC qualitative evaluation panel.

At least one eligible subapplication from each applicant will be sent to the qualitative evaluation panel for review.

The technical evaluation criteria offer incentives for elements valued by FEMA. In order to ensure transparency and efficient in competition project selection, technical evaluation criteria are binary point awards (with exception of the tiered building codes criterion for FY21). Projects either receive the full points allotted or zero points for each criterion.

FEMA developed several of the technical evaluation criteria based upon factors it is required to consider by statute in addition to comments received during the development of the BRIC program. For example, comments indicated that stakeholders strongly support prioritizing projects that integrate nature-based solutions, incentivizing building code improvements, and promoting previous Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) efforts.

Technical Criterion 1: Infrastructure Project (20 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, the subapplication must explain how the project mitigates natural hazard risk to critical physical structures, facilities, and systems that provide support to a community, its population, and its economy. The following are examples of statements that a community might submit in a subapplication to describe how its project is an infrastructure project:

- Through the proposed nature-based solution to reduce risk from high-intensity rainfall events, we will provide enhanced protection to our wastewater treatment plant, which supplies fresh water to our community of 30,000 people.
- Retrofitting our food bank to have stronger structural integrity and the ability to operate off-grid will ensure a critical service in our community can remain operational following an earthquake.

Applicants/subapplicants should include a statement describing the infrastructure project in the Scope of Work Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 2: Mitigating Risk to One or More Lifelines (15 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, the subapplication must indicate that the project will mitigate risk to at least one of the seven Community Lifelines to enable the continuous operation of critical government and business functions essential to human health and safety or economic security.

Community Lifelines are the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function. More information on [Community Lifelines](#) can be found on FEMA.gov and in the [Community Lifelines Implementation Toolkit](#). The seven Community Lifelines are shown in the graphic below.



FEMA Community Lifelines

To better understand how mitigation projects can incorporate Community Lifelines concepts, please refer to the Mitigation Action Portfolio (MAP). The following MAP projects offer examples for each of the seven Community Lifelines:

- Safety and Security: Spring Creek (South Dakota) Drainage Improvement Project
- Food, Water, Shelter: Renovation of Alexander Theater (St. Croix)
- Health and Medical: Mercy Hospital (Missouri) Rebuild
- Energy (Power & Fuel): Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe (California) Microgrid
- Communications: Connect Arlington (Virginia) Communication Infrastructure Upgrades
- Transportation: La Guardia Airport (New York) Flood Control
- Hazardous Materials: Washington DOT Landslide Mitigation Action Plan and Rail Corridor Improvements

Applicants/subapplicants should include a statement indicating to which of the seven Community Lifelines the project will mitigate risk in the Scope of Work Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 3: Incorporation of Nature-Based Solutions (10 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, the subapplication must indicate and describe how the project incorporates one or more nature-based solutions, which are sustainable environmental management practices that restore, mimic, and/or enhance nature and natural systems or processes and support natural hazard risk mitigation as well as economic, environmental, and social resilience efforts. Nature-based solutions use approaches that include, but are not limited to, restoration of grasslands, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, dunes, and reefs; living shorelines; soil stabilization; aquifer storage and recovery; and bioretention systems.

More information on nature-based solutions can be found in FEMA's [Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities](#) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Digital Coast](#).

Applicants/subapplicants should include a statement describing how the project incorporates a nature-based solution in the Scope of Work Section and Cost Effectiveness Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 4: Applicant has Mandatory Tribal-, Territory-, or State-Wide Building Code Adoption Requirement (10 points or 20 points)

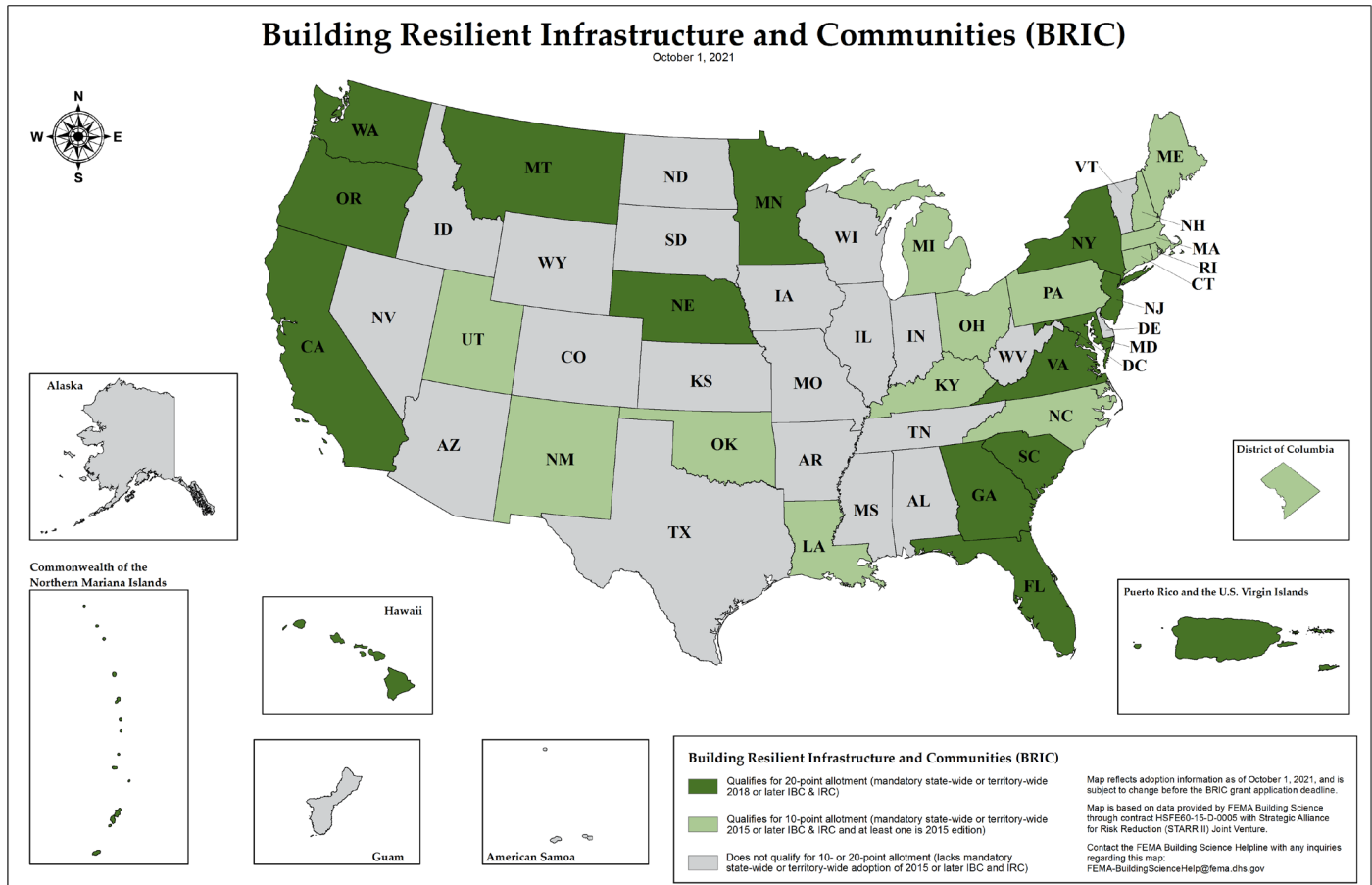
To receive the point allotment for this criterion, the applicant must have adopted mandatory tribal-, territory-, or state-wide building codes based on versions listed below of both the **International Building Code (IBC)** and the **International Residential Code (IRC)** model codes published by the International Code Council (ICC). The following adoption status combinations are the only ones that qualify for the specified point allotment:

- 2015 version of both the IBC and IRC (10 points)
- 2018 version of both the IBC and IRC (20 points)
- 2021 version of both the IBC and IRC (20 points)
- 2015 version of the IBC and 2018 version of the IRC (10 points)
- 2018 version of the IBC and 2015 version of the IRC (10 points)
- 2015 version of the IBC and 2021 version of the IRC (10 points)
- 2021 version of the IBC and 2015 version of the IRC (10 points)
- 2018 version of the IBC and 2021 version of the IRC (20 points)
- 2021 version of the IBC and 2018 version of the IRC (20 points)

If a federally recognized tribal government has not adopted the code as listed above, the tribe must demonstrate alternative compliance with IBC and IRC (versions listed above) or be covered under another jurisdiction's (state or territory) code adoption status in order to receive the point allotment.

FEMA acknowledges the importance of strong building codes at the state, local, tribal, and territorial levels. Accordingly, in future BRIC grant cycles, FEMA may increase its emphasis on building codes criteria.

Information about applicant adoption status may be found in the following map provided by FEMA Building Science or in documentation of state, territory, or tribal legislation or code that demonstrates adoption status. Applicants should include details on their building code adoption status in the Evaluation Section of FEMA GO. Additionally, subapplications should attach documentation verifying code adoption status of the applicant. Federally recognized tribal government code adoption status will be determined for tribal applicants after application close.



Technical Criterion 5: Subapplicant has Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Rating of 1 to 5 (20 points)

The BCEGS is an independent assessment of a community's building code adoption and enforcement activities, resulting in a score of 1 (best) to 10. For more information on BCEGS, please visit the ISO-Mitigation [website](#).

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a subapplicant at the local level (including those located in territories) must have a BCEGS rating between 1 and 5 (considered by FEMA as a disaster-resistant code) when the application is submitted. To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a state or territory acting as a subapplicant must:

- Have a class ranking between 1 and 5 on both the Commercial and Residential BCEGS State Averages as indicated in the 2020 State Averages as published on ISO's website at <https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/facts-and-figures/>; or
- Submit a BCEGS score provided by ISO (for territories and the District of Columbia)

Subapplicants at the state or territory level may submit documentation verified by ISO that provides more updated information on their BCEGS rating, if applicable. BCEGS scores for tribal applicants/subapplicants are required but

can be dependent on the relationship between the local municipality and the tribal entity that determines how building code requirements are managed.

The best source for relevant information at the community level is the local building inspector or code enforcement office.

BUREAU STATES

Bureau states have their own insurance rating organization that is not part of ISO. To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a subapplicant at the state or territory level for the five Bureau states not included in *ISO's National Building Code Assessment Report – Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule* (2019 Edition) must provide a state-verified BCEGS score at the state level. For subapplicants at the local level within Bureau states, BCEGS scores should be provided by the state. BCEGS Bureau state contact information is as follows:

Hawaii Insurance Bureau, Inc.

715 South King Street, Suite 320
Honolulu, HI 96813-4118
808-531-2771

Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau, Inc.

5440 Franklin Road, Suite 101
P.O. Box 6430
Boise, ID 83707
208-343-5483

Property Insurance Association of Louisiana

433 Metairie Road, Suite 400
Metairie, LA 70005
504-831-6930

Mississippi State Rating Bureau

2685 Insurance Center Drive
Jackson, MS 39216-5231
or
P.O. Box 5231
Jackson, MS 39296-5231
601-981-2915

Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau

200 1st Avenue W, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98119-4219
206-217-9772

If a subapplicant does not have a BCEGS score, a survey to obtain one can be requested. **BCEGS surveys are provided at no cost, do not negatively impact credit ratings, and can take 2 to 4 months to complete.** Communities

intending to apply for BRIC funding are encouraged to initiate the process as soon as possible. To request a BCEGS survey, please refer to the submission instructions referenced on the ISO-Mitigation [website](#). Questions about the BCEGS survey can be directed to BCEGS_Info@verisk.com.

Applicants/subapplicants should include their BCEGS score, or for Bureau states a state-verified BCEGS score at the state level, in the Evaluation Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 6: Subapplication Generated from a Previous Qualifying Award (10 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a subapplicant must demonstrate the subapplication was generated from a previous FEMA HMA Advance Assistance award or Project Scoping award, High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) award, or Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP), or the subapplicant is a past recipient of BRIC non-financial Direct Technical Assistance and the previous award is directly related to the current proposal. The subapplication must provide documentation to support this criterion. HMA Advance Assistance provides applicants and subapplicants with resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete applications in a timely manner.¹

This FEMA HMA grant may have been awarded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program, or BRIC grant program at any time; however, FEMA HMA grants that are not Advanced Assistance or Project Scoping do not qualify for this point allotment.

Subapplicants should include information on their previous award in the Evaluation Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 7: Increased Non-Federal Cost Share (5 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a subapplicant must demonstrate that it can provide a non-federal cost share of least 30% or for Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities (EDRCs) a non-federal cost share of at least 12%. To receive the full points, the federal share requested can be no more than 70% (or 88% for qualified EDRCs).

Subapplicants should include cost share documentation in the Budget Section of FEMA GO.

¹ This definition is derived from the Advance Assistance description on page 22 of the *Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance* (HMA Guidance; 2015), which is available at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance-and-addendum-fy15>.

Technical Criterion 8: Designation as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community (EDRC) (15 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, subapplicants must document their status as an EDRC (as referenced in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a) as a small impoverished community). An EDRC is a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals, as identified and validated by the applicant in the project subapplication, that is economically disadvantaged; meaning that residents have an average per capita annual income that does not exceed 80% of the national per capita income, based on best available data.² A state, territory, or federally recognized tribal government serving as a subapplicant must document the Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community status of the community in which the project is planned to receive the point allotment for this criterion.

Population information can be referenced through the U.S. Census, American Community Survey (ACS) website, see [Explore Census Data](#). Per capita income can be found after inputting a location into the Explore Census Data search, then under the *Per Capita Income By Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin, Total Population*, and Mean Income (Dollars) column. Supporting documentation for population and per capita income should include an exported U.S. Census Bureau ACS data report in PDF format, indicating the most recent information. Subapplicants should include documentation of their status as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community in the Budget Section in FEMA GO and attach required supporting documentation.

² This definition is derived from the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.